

## Student Engagement: Today's Volunteers-Tomorrow's Leaders

Successful Efforts to Engage Students in  
Legislative Advocacy

*Janet Deppe, MS CCC-SLP  
Director, State Advocacy*

## Why Involve Students in Legislative Advocacy?

- Teach students early the importance of advocacy so that they learn to:
  - Advocate for themselves professionally
  - Advocate for the Professions
  - Advocate for their clients, patients, students
  - Most importantly so that they learn early the importance of advocacy and become life long advocates

## Focus on Advocacy

- Priority of GRPP Board to promote student advocacy through development of modules for university training programs
- State team with the support of NSSLHA and academic programs, developed an initiative under ASHA Strategic Pathway, to provide financial assistance and resources to select State Associations that involved students in Capitol Day activities

## Focus on Advocacy

- At the 2008 CSAP conference attendees were surveyed the about interest in engaging students in advocacy
- Utilized the survey results and the following criteria to gauge state association interest:
  - Geographic and size distribution
  - Established lobby day with or without student involvement
  - # of university programs and NSSLHA chapters in state
  - State association interest in engaging students

## Focus on Advocacy

- State association had lobbyist and achieved some legislative/regulatory success
- Stable association with active member involvement

## Selection of State Associations Participants

- Five states were selected with 3 states agreeing to work with ASHA to increase student engagement in legislative advocacy
- Selected states included: CT, ID, and TN
  - TN wanted to increase student participation in their Hill Day
  - CT wanted to involve students in their first ever Hill Day
  - ID wanted to involve students in their first Hill Day

**ASHA Leader Article on State Success Stories**

- ASHA Leader story on State Association Successful efforts to engage students involved:
  - Texas
  - Oklahoma
  - Ohio

**Contents of Packet for State Volunteer Coordinators**

- Welcome letter outlining resources included to facilitate student participation
- Sample letter to CSD programs
- Leader article and advice from CSD program directors involving students in legislative advocacy
- Save the Date postcard and Uncle Sam recruitment flyer
- Sample recruitment article for use in student or state association newsletters.web site publication

**Contents of Packet for State Volunteer Coordinators**

- Script for making appointments with legislators
- FAQs and tips for visiting legislators
- Timeline/preparation checklist
- Agenda for lobby Day
  - Briefing materials
  - Role playing scripts
  - Map of legislative office building

**Contents of Packet for State Volunteer Coordinators**

- Agreement for ASHA stipend
- Learner outcomes for attendees to obtain ASHA CE
- Visit reporting forms
- Lobby Day evaluation forms

**Success of the Initiative**

- Only CT has held its Lobby Day –the others are scheduled later this year
- Report from CT Coordinator
  - Had a great time and students and professionals learned a lot!
  - Evaluation report to ASHA to be completed

**Results of CT Lobby Day**



### Results of CT Lobby Day



### Evaluation of Results and Continuation of the Initiative

- ASHA will evaluate results once reports are received from participating states
- Materials will be amended as necessary
- ASHA has committed additional funding for up to 10 state associations to engage students in advocacy at Hill Days
- For more information, contact Janice Brannon at [jbrannon@asha.org](mailto:jbrannon@asha.org)

Questions????